

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**SAN ANTONIO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Andrew Martin, City Attorney

**THROUGH:** Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

**COPIES TO:** Municipal Court; Budget and Management Analysis; Finance; File

**SUBJECT:** An ordinance accepting a \$182,662 grant award from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD) under the Violence Against Women Act to continue the Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence Project for the twelve-month period September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004; establishing a fund; adopting a budget; and approving personnel complements.

**DATE:** August 7, 2003

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

This ordinance accepts the grant award in the amount of \$182,662 awarded by the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, under the Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A.) for the continuation of the Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence project for the twelve-month period September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004. Furthermore, this ordinance will also establish a fund, adopt a budget, and approve personnel complements.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The purpose of the V.A.W.A. program is to pursue a coordinated and integrated approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence against women, including a partnership between law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim advocates, and service providers. The Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence program has expanded the domestic violence court at Municipal Court enabling more Class C domestic violence cases to be evaluated and prosecuted. Consequently, more domestic violence victims receive swift intervention and thereby prevent escalation of the domestic violence into a dangerous crime.

Through implementation of this program, the San Antonio City Attorney's Office has expanded its abilities to serve more victims through its domestic violence court located at San Antonio's Municipal Court, 401 S. Frio. The legal staff positions supported by these grant funds includes an Assistant City Attorney II, a Program Manager, and a Caseworker II. The grant also funds one additional Municipal Court employee to process the additional domestic violence cases. This position, an Office Assistant, is under the immediate supervision of the Director of Municipal Courts as a result of this grant.

In the first five years of the program over 7,500 cases have been reviewed and over 4,900 cases have been filed. In addition, the family violence program has provided over 9,000 victims with referrals for domestic violence intervention services, case information, and follow-up services through phone calls, face-to-face contacts and letters.

### **POLICY ANALYSIS**

This grant follows the long-standing practice of seeking Federal and State funds to promote and ensure the health and well-being of the citizens of the City.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The estimated cost of the Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence program for this twelve-month period is \$243,549 from September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004. Through this grant C.J.D. will provide \$182,662 for the twelve-month funding period. The remaining amount due is representative of the minimum 25% required for the V.A.W.A. grant and will be contributed by the City as an in-kind match. The in-kind match is provided through volunteer/intern hours, along with costs for office supplies and communications being provided by the San Antonio City Attorney's Office. In addition, a portion of the in-kind match is contributed by the work of general fund staff on the grant project. There is no additional cash match commitment.

The grant acceptance notice must be signed by the Authorized Official, Mr. J. Rolando Bono, Deputy City Manager, and returned to C.J.D. within 45 days of the award date. Acceptance of this grant award and approval of the funding and budget for this project must be authorized before the start date of September 1, 2003.

### **COORDINATION**

Other departments coordinating with this project are Municipal Courts, Finance, and Office of Management and Budget.

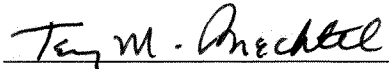
**SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS**

This ordinance does not request funding for any contractual services requiring disclosure under the City Code of Ethics.

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Andrew Martin  
City Attorney

APPROVED:

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Terry M. Brechtel  
City Manager